

1           In the Claims

2           Claims 1-69 are pending and are listed below as follows:

3

4           1. (Original) A method for delivering software via a network  
5 comprising:

6                 describing one or more software extensions using descriptions, the  
7                 extensions being configured for incorporation in a software platform executing on  
8                 a client; and

9                 delivering the descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via  
10                the network, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the  
11                software extensions via the network.

12

13           2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises  
14                the Internet.

15

16           3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions comprise  
17                a tag-based, hierarchical language.

18

19           4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions comprise  
20                XML descriptions.

21

22           5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
23                the network comprises the Internet; and  
24                descriptions comprise XML descriptions.

1       6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
2 are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the software  
3 platform, the context-based changes being associated with the computing context  
4 of a user.

5

6       7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software platform is  
7 configured to provide a single application program having multiple different  
8 functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish multiple different tasks.

9

10     8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the software extensions  
11 are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of one or more of  
12 the multiple different functionalities that change the manner in which a user can  
13 accomplish a task associated with a particular functionality.

14

15     9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
16 provide user interface elements.

17

18     10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
19 provide behaviors, components, or objects.

20

21     11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
22 provide store elements.

23

24     12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
25 provide user-defined elements.

1  
2       13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software extensions  
3 provide one or more of the following:

- 4             user interface elements;  
5             behaviors, components, or objects;  
6             store elements; and  
7             user-defined elements.

8  
9       14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one extension  
10 provides an ability to add new points of extensibility.

11  
12      15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the describing of the one  
13 or more software extensions comprises describing the extensions using an  
14 extension description file (EDF) comprising an XML file that describes a logical  
15 attachment to the software platform.

16  
17      16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the  
18 descriptions contains an implementation of all or part of the functionality of an  
19 extension.

20  
21      17. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
22 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer system, cause  
23 the computer system to:

24             describe one or more software extensions using extensible markup  
25 language (XML), the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software

1 platform comprising a single application program, the single application program  
2 having multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish  
3 multiple different tasks; and

4 deliver XML descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via the  
5 Internet, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the software  
6 extensions via the Internet.

7  
8 18. (Original) A method for delivering software via a network  
9 comprising:

10 describing one or more software extensions using one or more descriptive  
11 files, the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software program  
12 executing on a client;

13 associating the one or more descriptive files with one or more associated  
14 extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality;

15 storing the descriptive files and associated extension files in a network-  
16 accessible location; and

17 delivering the descriptive files and the associated extension files of the one  
18 or more extensions to the client via a network.

19  
20 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said describing  
21 comprises describing individual software extensions with at least one XML file,  
22 including a description of a logical attachment to the software program, and a  
23 description of one or more physical files and/or resources that are used in a  
24 software extension.

1       20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the software extensions  
2 are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the software  
3 application, the context-based changes being associated with the computing  
4 context of a user.

5  
6       21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the software program  
7 comprises multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish  
8 multiple different tasks, the one or more software extensions being configured to  
9 make context-based changes in the operation of one or more of the different  
10 functionalities that change the manner in which a user can accomplish a task  
11 associated with a particular functionality.

12  
13       22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the software program  
14 comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user between the  
15 different functionalities.

16  
17       23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more  
18 software extensions provide user interface elements.

19  
20       24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more  
21 software extensions provide behaviors, components, or objects.

22  
23       25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more  
24 software extensions provide store elements.

1           26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more  
2 software extensions provide user-defined elements.

3  
4           27. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more  
5 software extensions provide one or more of the following:

6           user interface elements;  
7           behaviors, components, or objects;  
8           store elements; and  
9           user-defined elements.

10  
11          28. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
12 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the  
13 method of claim 18.

14  
15          29. (Original) A method of delivering software via a network  
16 comprising:

17           storing one or more extension definition files (EDFs) that describe a logical  
18 attachment to a software application program;

19           storing one or more extension files that correspond to the one or more  
20 EDFs and extend the software application program; and

21           delivering, via a network, at least one EDF to a client; and  
22           delivering, via a network, at least one extension file that corresponds to the  
23 at least one EDF to a client.

1       30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs are defined in  
2 a hierarchical language.

3

4       31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the network comprises  
5 the Internet.

6

7       32. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said acts of storing are  
8 accomplished by hosting said files with an Internet server.

9

10      33. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs comprise  
11 XML files.

12

13      34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the XML files comprise  
14 predefined tags that are associated with feature types that are to be added to the  
15 application program.

16

17      35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the  
18 predefined tags correspond to user interface elements.

19

20      36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the  
21 predefined tags correspond to services which can be behaviors, components, or  
22 objects.

23

24      37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the  
25 predefined tags correspond to store elements.

1  
2       38. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the XML files comprise  
3 user-defined tags that are associated with user-defined features that are to be added  
4 to the application program.

5  
6       39. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
7 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the  
8 method of claim 29.

9  
10      40. (Original) A data structure embodied on a computer-readable  
11 medium comprising:

12        a first sub-structure indicative of a software extension that is to be  
13 incorporated in a software application program;

14        one or more second sub-structures associated with the first sub-structure  
15 and indicative of feature types that can be added by the extension to the  
16 application program; and

17        one or more third sub-structures associated with the one or more second  
18 sub-structures and indicative of features of an associated feature type that can be  
19 added by the extension.

20  
21      41. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or more  
22 second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures.

23  
24      42. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or more  
25 third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.

1  
2       43. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or more  
3 second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures, and the one or more  
4 third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.

5  
6       44. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the sub-structures  
7 comprise XML tags.

8  
9       45. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the feature types  
10 comprise one or more of the following feature types:

11           user interface elements;  
12           behaviors, components, or objects;  
13           store elements; and  
14           user-defined elements.

15  
16       46. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data structure  
17 comprises an open XML schema that can be extended.

18  
19       47. (Original) The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data structure  
20 comprises an open XML schema that can be extended by third parties.

21  
22       48. (Original) A method of delivering software via a network  
23 comprising:

24           navigating to a network site that maintains at least one software application  
25 program; and

1           downloading a software application program from the network site, the  
2 application program comprising multiple different functionalities that can assist a  
3 user in accomplishing different tasks, the software application program being  
4 configured to be extended with software extensions that are deliverable via a  
5 network and are described by at least one network-deliverable file.

6

7       49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the application program  
8 comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user between the  
9 multiple different functionalities.

10

11      50. (Original) The method of claim 48 further comprising extending the  
12 software application program by adding at least one extension to the application  
13 program.

14

15      51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein said extending  
16 comprises:

17           using a link to navigate to a different network site that hosts one or more  
18 XML files that describe the extension, and extension files that are used to  
19 implement the extension; and

20           downloading the one or more XML files and the extension files to a client.

21

22      52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein one of the XML files  
23 comprises a file that logically describes an extension, and one of the XML files  
24 comprises a file that describes the extension files.

1           53. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the link is stored in a  
2 user preference.

3

4           54. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
5 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the  
6 computer to:

7                 navigate to a network site that maintains at least one software application  
8 program;

9                 download a software application program comprising multiple different  
10 functionalities that can assist a user in accomplishing different tasks, the software  
11 application program being configured to be extended with software extensions that  
12 are deliverable via the network and described by at least one network-deliverable  
13 file; and

14                 extend the software application program by adding at least one extension to  
15 the application program, the extension being added by using a link to navigate to a  
16 different network site that hosts one or more files that describe the extension, and  
17 extension files that are used to implement the extension and downloading the one  
18 or more files and the extension files to a client.

19

20           55. (Original) A method of delivering software via a network  
21 comprising:

22                 accessing a Web site through which one or more software extensions can be  
23 obtained;

24  
25

1 receiving at least one file that describes at least one software extension  
2 using a hierarchical language that describes the software extension's logical  
3 attachment to a software application program;

4 receiving one or more software extension files; and

5 installing the one or more software extension files based, at least in part, on  
6 the description contained in said at least one file.

7  
8 56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical  
9 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises a  
10 tag-based language.

11  
12 57. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical  
13 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises  
14 extensible markup language (XML).

15  
16 58. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein said installing  
17 comprises doing so without manipulating a client registry or any registry keys that  
18 are permanently persisted on the client machine.

19  
20 59. (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising determining  
21 whether an update to a software extension is available and, if so, receiving update  
22 extension files.

23  
24 60. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein said determining  
25 comprises polling an extension catalog.

1  
2       61. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein said determining  
3 comprises polling an extension catalog comprising an XML file.  
4

5       62. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
6 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the  
7 computer to implement the method of claim 55.  
8

9       63. (Original) A method of providing software for delivery over a  
10 network comprising:  
11

12             describing one or more software extensions using one or more extensible  
13 markup language (XML) files, the extensions being configured for incorporation  
14 in a software program executing on a client;

15             associating the one or more XML files with one or more associated  
16 extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality; and  
17

18             storing the XML files and associated extension files in a network-accessible  
19 location.  
20

21       64. (Original) A network site through which a client can access software  
22 files comprising:  
23

24             one or more software extension files configured to be incorporated into a  
25 software application program and delivered via a network; and  
26

27             one or more files associated with the one or more software extension files  
28 and describing the extension files, the one or more files describing a logical  
29

1 attachment of the one or more software extension files to the software application  
2 program.

3

4 65. (Original) The network site of claim 64, wherein the hierarchical  
5 language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

6

7 66. (Original) A method of managing network-based software  
8 extensions comprising:

9 grouping multiple software extension descriptions in a catalog in a  
10 network-accessible location;

11 accessing the network-accessible location; and

12 using the catalog to update a software extension that is resident on a  
13 computing device.

14

15 67. (Original) The method of claim 66 further comprising querying the  
16 catalog to ascertain an extension description.

17

18 68. (Original) The method of claim 66 further comprising querying the  
19 catalog based on a user's personal setting.

20

21 69. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the extension  
22 descriptions are defined in XML.